

## Test Coordinator Question and Answer

### 1. Is there a cost to districts for the new fall opportunity for incoming 10<sup>th</sup> graders?

There is no cost to districts to test incoming 10<sup>th</sup> graders in fall 2008.

### 2. Why did you even mention the *Unintended Consequences*?

Superintendents, teachers and test coordinators often tell me that motivation is an issue and “students do not care about the test”. My concern is that you will see a possible impact of allowing students to bank fall scores. I am sure students can achieve a higher score if they re-test in the spring. I want you to have time to plan for those “barely” passing students who will not *want* to re-test. If you intend to re-test, you will need a motivation plan. The Board made this testing opportunity optional so you could make the decisions locally.

NCLB requires you have a test score for 95% of the 10<sup>th</sup> graders in math, reading, language usage, and science by the end of the spring testing window. Board Rule requires each student achieve a proficient score in reading, math, and language usage to meet the graduation requirement. (Science will be an added requirement for the graduates in 2013). The alternate path to graduation for students unlikely to pass the ISAT remains in place and should be implemented by the spring of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Unintended Consequence - School and District 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Scale Score Averages for ISAT**

Please, have a conversation with your administrative teams about the possible unintended consequence of allowing 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to bank a fall score and not retest in the spring. Students will undoubtedly score higher in the spring, after a year of instruction. If you do not retest, you will be averaging some proficient scores that are close to the proficient / basic cut-point.

- If you report your average scale scores, you may see lower averages scale scores.
- If you report by proficiency levels, *advanced*, *proficient*, *basic*, and *below basic*, you might lose numbers of students who may have moved to *advanced*.

Have a conversation and make an informed decision of how to handle the optional fall 10<sup>th</sup> grade opportunity for your district.

Repeat from  
8/15 TC update

There is no right or wrong way to do this. Make this option work to the best advantage for your students, schools and district!

Margo